

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, and 4-10 are pending in the application. Claim 3 has been canceled.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 3 and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, because one reasonably skilled in the art could not make or would know how to use, based upon the disclosure coupled with information known in the art, an “optic axis of the strobe light-emission unit [coincide] with a center point of [an] electronic zoom area.”

Claim 3 has been canceled.

The “wherein an optic axis of the strobe light-emission unit coincides with a center point of the electronic zoom area” limitation has been deleted from claim 8 to overcome this rejection.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

(a) Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kowno et al. (US 2002/0093578A1) in view of Okamura (USP 6,788,345), and further in view of Miyawaki et al. (USP 6,522,360). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Kowno discloses, for example in paragraphs [0042] and [0099], a camera having a strobe that illuminates light to an object.

Okamura discloses, in Fig. 1, a flash device 110 controlled by a flash device control circuit 109. As stated in col. 3, lines 1-3, the flash device 110 is capable of varying the guide number by changing the illuminating angle. Okamura also states, in col. 3, lines 26-41, that when the focal length of an image forming optical system is varied, a lens control unit 108 supplies

magnification varying information to the flash device control circuit 109, and also that, upon receipt of the magnification varying information from the lens control circuit 108, the flash device control circuit 109 controls the illumination angle of the flash device 110 according to the magnification to the magnification varying information.

As stated in col. 3, line 63 – col. 4, line 1, however, the illumination angle of the flash device 110 is changed to control the guide number of the flash device 110 (i.e., to make the guide number of the flash device 110 correspond to the magnification varying information). It is well known in the art of photography that a “guide number” is the strength of the flash and hence the ability to illuminate a target to be photographed. Further, it is known in the art that when a zoom device is activated upon taking a photograph, a center of an image prior to zooming coincides with a center of a zoomed image.

Miyawaki fails to disclose or suggest providing a light-emission control unit for controlling a strobe light-emission device.

Therefore, even assuming that Kowno, Okamura, and Miyawaki can be combined, which Applicants do not admit, one of ordinary skill in the art would merely conceive an image sensing apparatus having a zoom device and a flash device, and in which the guide number of the flash device can be controlled to correspond to the magnification by the zoom device, and would not conceive “a light-emission control unit for controlling a strobe light-emission device in such a manner that the strobe light-emission device illuminates precisely a position of a subject that corresponds to a center point of the designated electronic zoom area, the center point of the

designated electronic zoom area being different from a center point of the image of the subject represented by the image data output from said image sensing device,” as required in claim 1¹.

Claims 4-6, variously dependent on claim 1, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 1.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

(b) Claims 9 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kowno in view of Okamura. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 9 is allowable at least for the similar reasons as stated in the foregoing with regard to claim 1.

Claim 10, dependent on claim 9, is allowable at least for its dependency on claim 9.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

(c) Applicants also respectfully submit that claim 8, although not rejected under this Section, is allowable at least for the similar reasons as stated in the foregoing with regard to claim 1.

Conclusion

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and objections, and allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Maki Hatsumi (#40,417) at the

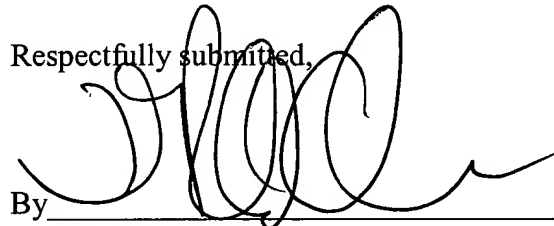
¹ Support for this limitation can be found at least in page 10, line 26 – page 11, line 4, and in Figs. 2a and 2b of this application.

telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: May 16, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



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